

STUDIES IN THE EUPATORIEAE (ASTERACEAE). CLII.

A NEW GENUS, IMERIA.

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The tribe Eupatorieae is not particularly well represented in the Guayana Highlands Region of northern South America. Some widely distributed forms such as Chromolaena are known and there is an endemic genus, Guayana, having five species mostly from the Venezuelan state of Bolivar. An additional distinctive species occurs farther south in the southernmost part of Venezuela on the mountain now known as Neblina.

The plant originally described as Eupatorium memorabile is unlike other members of the tribe but similar to many other plants of the tepuis in the rigidly branched habit and coriaceous leaves. The hairs of the stems and leaves have prominent enlarged bases, the crowded somewhat persistent bases forming a papillose cover on the young stems. The involucre are similar in aspect to Chromolaena but the outer bracts tend to persist indefinitely with the fleshy bases rotting rather than dehiscing. The species has a particularly prominent hirsute receptacle. The prominent callus on the outer surface of the corolla lobes is another feature suggesting relation to Chromolaena. A rather unique feature of the species seems to be the cellular structure of the achene walls where the cell walls are thickened without trace of the punctations seen in most members of the tribe. The species is treated here as a distinct genus showing a combination of Chromolaena and Critonioid characters. The coarse habit is entirely distinctive and the hirsute receptacle provides distinction from more closely related forms.

In naming the genus Imeria we have chosen to honor the original name given to Neblina by Spruce. The name Imeri has been used by some for the mountains to the south of Neblina-Imeri but there can be no doubt as to which mountain Spruce originally applied the name.

Imeria R.M.King & H.Robinson, genus novum Asteracearum (Eupatorieae). Plantae erectae frutescentes grossae mediocriter ramosae. Caules teretes hirsuti glabrescentes, basibus pilorum multicellularibus distincte incrassatis aliquantum persistentibus. Folia opposita breviter distincte petiolata; laminae ovatae vel

ellipticae coriaceaе margine integrae apice breviter acutae supra grosse pilosae et glanduliferae subtus sparse pilosae et dense glanduliferae, nervis pinnatis. Inflorescentiae corymbosae; capitula in ramis congesta sessilia. Involucri squamae imbricatae 4-5-seriatae valde inaequales exteriores subpersistentes interiores deciduae; receptacula dense setifera. Flores ca. 10 in capitulo; corollae anguste infundibulares glabrae, lobis angustis intus laevibus extus superne valde mamillosis et scleroidis; filamenta in parte superiore subincrassata, cellulis oblongis annulate ornatis; cellulae exotheciales subquadratae; appendices antherarum oblongo-ovatae longiores quam latiores; styli inferni glabri non nodulosi; appendices stylorum lineares leniter mamillosae; achaenia prismatica inferne non angustiora, costis plerumque 7-9, parietibus cellularum incrassatis non punctatis; carpodia breviter cylindrica, cellulis subquadratis 5-6-seriatis, parietibus valde incrassatis; pappus setiformis 1-2-seriatus persistens, setis ca. 50 remote scabridis apice subclavatis, cellulis apicalibus subacutis vel obtusis. Grana pollinis ca. 27-30 μ diam.

Species typica: Eupatorium memorabile Maguire & Wurdack

The genus is monotypic.

Imeria memorabilis (Maguire & Wurdack) R.M.King & H. Robinson, comb. nov. Eupatorium memorabile Maguire & Wurdack, Mem. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 9(3):366. 1957. Venezeula.

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